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Medical terminology is based on usage in MeSH, the National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings which are used in *Index Medicus*. If a term does not appear in MeSH, then the author's usage or common usage is preferred.

Initialisms and acronyms are alphabetized as if they were complete words, and not at the beginning of each alphabetical group of index terms.

There is a separate index for names and deaths. The name index contains names of authors as well as persons who are the subjects of articles or news items. The deaths are listed in a separate section of the index.

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